

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE For Further Information Contact: State Representative Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum) (608) 266-9175

July 26, 2016

Rep. Kremer to Serve as Vice Chair of Volunteer EMS Shortage Study Committee

Madison, WI – Today, the Legislative Council Study Committee on Volunteer Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Shortages held its first meeting in Madison. The Committee is tasked with identifying legislative solutions to remedy the state's shortage of volunteer fire and EMS personnel.

Senator Steve Nass (R-Whitewater) will chair the Committee and Representative Jesse Kremer (R-Kewaskum) will serve as Vice Chair. Rep. Kremer brings experience as a currently serving volunteer firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) in Kewaskum. Legislative members also include Sen. Janet Bewley (D-Ashland) and Rep. Debra Kolste (D-Janesville). Eleven public members with career experience in firefighting and EMS fields round out the Committee.

The state's current shortage of volunteer emergency personnel will guide the scope of the Committee's work over the next five months. The present magnitude of the shortage, most affected rural areas, impacts on public health, training requirements for volunteer personnel and relationships between full-time and volunteer departments will all be considered by the Committee.

More information and Committee materials can be found on the Committee's website: https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lc/study/2016/1498. The Committee is scheduled to hold its second meeting on August 30, 2016.

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